

Application Serial No.: 10/706,521  
Atty. Docket No.: 2C06.1-010  
PATENT

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 27, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 12-20 are withdrawn, and Claims 1 and 8 are amended. No new matter is introduced by the present Response and Amendment.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,488,547 to Mason; and Claims 2 and 4-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over Mason '547. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection and requests reconsideration in view of the present amendments to Claims 1 and 8, and the comments that follow.

Claims 1 and 8 are presently amended to specify the provision of a mask including "at least one display permanently visible from the first side of the mask . . ." The display of Mason '547, by contrast, comprises an "anhydrous hygroscopic layer", that is initially not visible, and which only becomes visible by means of a coloration change that occurs upon absorption of a sufficient quantity of moisture from the wearer's breath. See Mason '547, Column 2, lines 49-55. Accordingly, the invention as presently claimed is not disclosed or suggested by Mason '547.

It is further noted with regard to Claim 8, that the method of the present invention includes "providing information regarding specified characteristics of the wearer in the at least one display of the mask." In its intended method of use, the display of Mason '547 does not provide information about the wearer, but instead provides information about the mask (i.e., that the mask may be contaminated due to extended use). See Mason '547, Column 1, lines 36-41.

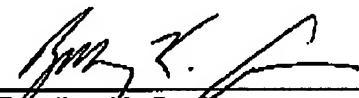
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present grounds of rejection cannot properly be maintained, and reconsideration is requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application is in full condition for allowance. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Bradley K. Groff  
Reg. No. 39,695

GARDNER GROFF, P.C.  
Paper Mill Village, Building 23  
600 Village Trace, Suite 300  
Marietta, GA 30067  
Tel: 770/984-2300  
Fax: 770/984-0098